

Mauritania desert locust update for the first dekad in December, 2005

Summary

CLAA/Mauritania reported the presence of isolated mature and immature solitary adults and hoppers in the northern, central and eastern zones during the first dekad of the month. Control operations began on December 4th and treated 452 ha against hoppers and immature adults in Aftout Fay in the central zone. More mature adults will likely be seen in areas where ecological conditions are favorable. Vigilant monitoring is essential.

Meteorological and ecological conditions

According to CLAA/Mauritania, ecological conditions favoring survival and/or breeding exist in a number of places in the northern, central and eastern zones. Similar conditions exist in Bir Maghreïn area where annual vegetation is in progress. Awker, Boutilimit and Fay, in the central zone continue to harbor favorable conditions, although annual vegetation in most of the zone is drying up. Perennial vegetation including *Panicum tergidum*, *Aristida pungens*, *Maeura crassifolia*, and *Leptadonia pyrotechnica* were reported green or recovering in several places.

transient hoppers were also sighted in Aftout Fay, Yagref, Tamkarkat, Amssaga and Awker, Boutilimit in the central zone. Solitary immature adults and 2nd to 4th instar hoppers were also reported in Varaho, eastern zone. No locusts were detected in the southern zone.

Action

CLAA/Mauritania launched control operations on December 4th and as of now, 452 ha have been sprayed against immature adults and transient hoppers in Aftout Fay, in the central zone. The Center has organized eighteen survey and intervention teams, three ground coordination teams, one central coordination team, one logistics team, one maintenance team, one quality control team, one health and environmental monitoring team and one barrel crushing team for the current operations.

Forecast

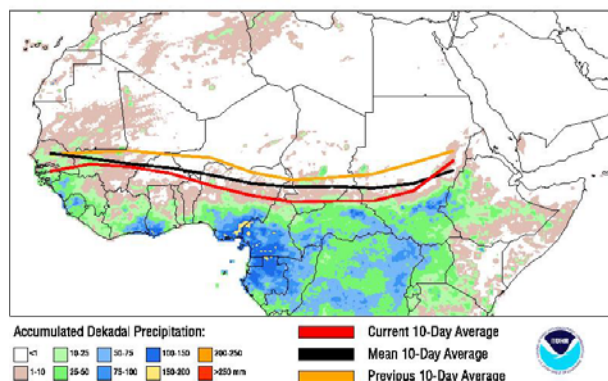
The number of mature adults will likely increase in the coming weeks in areas where ecological conditions are favorable. Solitary populations could also increase in the northern zone. Vigilant survey and monitoring are essential to avert any significant increase in locust numbers, which, if unchecked, could further escalate.

Situation in neighboring countries

No locusts were reported in **Morocco** or **Senegal** during this dekad.

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Current vs Mean Position of the Africa ITCZ
As analyzed by the NOAA Climate Prediction Center
October 2005 Dekad 3



Locust situation

Mature solitary individual locusts were sighted in several places in the northern zone during the first dekad in December. Solitary and